

21. (Currently amended) A method of connecting a client system to a target network comprising the steps of:

configuring a tunnel in a host system under control of the host system, wherein the host system is capable of accessing a target network;

connecting the client system to the host system under the control of the client system, wherein said host system is capable of examining membership information stored on said client and host systems to determine whether said host system and the client system are registered members of a cooperative networking system and performing said connecting step depending on said membership status before said host system accesses said target network;

comparing preferences of the host system and the client system under the control of a matching means,

establishing a secure link from the client system to the target network through the tunnel in the host system when the preferences of the host system and client system match; wherein the client system does not access any resources of the host system outside of said tunnel-; wherein said host system is capable of establishing said secure link when the preferences of the host system and client system do not match.

22. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 21 wherein the comparing step is made in a server.

23. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 21 wherein the target network is the Internet.

24. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 21 wherein the target network is a public network.

25. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 21 wherein the target network is a PSTN.

26. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 21 wherein the client system is a mobile phone.

27. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 21 wherein the host system is a virtual private network.

28. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in 21 wherein the host system and the client system are members of a service that gives reciprocal roaming rights.

29. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in 21 where the comparing step comprises the steps of

determining a cost of obtaining a link and

comparing the cost with a predetermined limit stored by said client system where a match will be found if the cost is less than or equal to the predetermined limit.

30. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 21 wherein the host system is not connected to the target network and will make the connection to the target network upon request by the client system.

31. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 21 wherein the secure link through the tunnel comprises channels to transmit time divided data.

32. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 21 further comprising the step of connecting a second client system to the first client system in order that the second client

system is able to access the target network through the tunnel in the host system.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising the steps of

configuring a tunnel in a second host system under control of the second host system, wherein the second host system is capable of accessing the target network;

connecting the client system to the second host system under the control of the client system

comparing preferences of the second host system and the client system under the control of a matching means,

establishing a secure link from the client system to the target network through the tunnel in the second host system when the preferences of the second host system and client system match; wherein said client system does not access any resources of the second host system outside of said tunnel; and

disconnecting the client system from the first host system.

34. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 21 wherein the establishing step further comprises the step of notifying a user of the client system of the availability of a link wherein the user can accept or reject the connection.

35. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 21 wherein any data sent by the client system is encrypted prior to being sent to the network such that the privacy and security of the client are maintained.

36. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 35 wherein the encryption can be selectively applied to the data depending on preferences.

37. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 21 wherein the connecting step comprises the step of causing the host system to mimic ~~the~~ air interference for a cordless telephone link.

38. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 37, further comprising the step of converting ~~the~~ a data stream into data packets for transmission over the Internet under the control of the host system.

39. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 21 wherein the client configuration is performed automatically by the host system when the host system is first powered on.

40. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 21 wherein the connecting step comprises using a wireless connection technology.

41. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 21 wherein the establishing step occurs automatically once the match is made.

42. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 38 wherein the packets are VoIP.

43. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 38 wherein the packets are sent over any available port in order to pass through a firewall.

44. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 33 wherein the client system connects to and disconnects from the host system and second host system under the control of said matching means.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40 wherein the connecting step comprises the step of coordinating the different frequencies used by the client system in connecting to the host system.

46. (Currently amended) A system to connect a client system to a target network comprising:

a host system capable accessing the target network and configuring a tunnel;

a client system capable of connecting to the host system; wherein said host system is capable of examining membership information stored on said client and host systems to determine whether said host system and the client system are registered members of a cooperative networking system and performing said connecting step depending on said membership status before said host system accesses said target network; and

a matching means capable of comparing preferences of the host system and the client system and establishing a secure link from the client system to the target network through the tunnel in the host system when the preferences of the host system and the client system match; wherein the client system does not access any resources of the host system outside of the tunnel; wherein said host system is capable of establishing said secure link when the preferences of the host system and client system do not match..

47. (New) A cooperative networking system for connecting a client system to a target network; said networking system comprising:

a cooperative tunneling agent program capable of receiving a request to allow said client system to connect to a host system; said host system being capable of accessing said target network; wherein said cooperative tunneling agent is capable of examining membership information stored on said client and host systems to determine whether the second host system and the first client system are registered members of said cooperative networking system and approving said request depending on said membership status before said host system accesses said target network; and

a matching means capable of comparing preferences of the host system and the client system and establishing a secure link from the client system to the target network through a tunnel in the

host system based on the preferences; wherein said tunnel is controlled by said host system and the client system does not access any resources of the host system outside of the tunnel.